Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: PFOR, CY, EEC

SUBJECT: CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS AND THE EC

- 1. DURING ROUTINE CALL ON WINCHESTER, HEAD OF FCO SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEPT, ON FEBRUARY 16, LATTER GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING PERSONAL AND PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF LATEST MAKARIOS-DENKTASH MEETING: ALTHOUGH THE AGREEMENT TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING AT THE END OF MARCH IS GOOD NEWS, HE GATHERS THAT THE PARTIES DID NOT MAKE TOO MUCH PROGRESS AT THE LAST MEETING, AND THAT THERE IS STILL ANY AMOUNT OF ROOM FOR ARGUMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. HE THOUGHT HMG SHOULD CONTINUE PREPARATORY WORK WITH USG SO THAT BOTH COULD LEND A HELPING HAND IN THE PROCESS, SINCE IT IS STILL LIKELY THIS WILL BE NEEDED.
- 2. WINCHESTER CONTINUED THAT THE EC HAS BEEN CONSIDER-ING WHETHER IT SHOULD ISSUE A NON-SUBSTANTIVE EC STATE-MENT MERELY WELCOMING RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS. THIS IS NOT YET SETTLED, BUT IF IT IS DECIDED UPON, THE EC WILL PROMPTLY LET THE USG KNOW WHAT IS PROPOSED. HE ASSURED CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBOFF THAT THE UK IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR THE EC IN ANY SUCH UTTERANCES NOT TO "CROSS WIRES" WITH THE CLIFFORD MISSION.

3. WINCHESTER SAID THAT THE EC MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS COMMITTEE, WHOSE MAIN PREOCCUPATION IS THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 24. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE TIMING OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION, SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE PROPOSED THAT THE MEETING BE DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING, SO THAT ON THE BASIS OF FIELD REPORTING ON THE PROGRESS OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION THE MEDITERRANEAN EXPERTS CAN PRESENT A MORE UP-TO-DATE REPORT TO THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS. FCO HAS BEEN OPPOSING SHIFTING DATE TO FEBRUARY 28 BECAUSE IT CONFLICTS WITH OTHER MEETINGS IN LONDON.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH FCO CYPRUS DESK OFFICER SHORT, EMBOFF NOTED DENKTASH CLAIM THAT TURKS HAD OWNED 32.8 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND AND ASKED IF THE FCO, ON THE BASIS OF COLONIAL OR OTHER RECORDS, HAD ITS OWN ESTIMATE OF THIS FIGURE. SHORT REPLIED THAT BRITISH DO NOT, ALTHOUGH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD REPORTED THAT DENKTASH'S ESTIMATE WAS OF COURSE MUCH TOO HIGH.

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